

## METHODS AND REAGENTS FOR THE ISOLATION OF NUCLEIC ACIDS

The invention includes reagents and methods for the isolation of nucleic acids. The reagents described herein contain a nucleic acid precipitating agent and a solid phase carrier. The reagents can optionally be formulated to cause the lysis of a cell. These reagents can be used to isolate a target nucleic acid molecule from a cell or a solution containing a mixture of different size nucleic acid molecules. The disclosed reagents and methods provides a simple, robust and readily automatable means of nucleic acid isolation and purification which produces high quality nucleic acid molecules suitable for: capillary electrophoresis, nucleotide sequencing, reverse transcription cloning the transfection, transduction or microinjection of mammalian cells, gene therapy protocols, the *in vitro* synthesis of RNA probes, cDNA library construction and PCR amplification.

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